

Knights of Columbus

**Louisiana State Financial Secretaries Association
Minutes of the Annual Financial Secretaries Meeting
St Bernadette K of C Council 7355 Houma, LA
May 8, 2021**

Saturday, May 8, 2021

1. Call to Order – President Tommy Rodrigue (8952) at 9:20 am
2. Verification of Travel Cards – Maurice Evans (7355)
3. Opening Prayer - Chris Dufrene, Jr. (7350) 3-Year Trustee
4. Pledge to Flag – Russell Ruh (Assembly 2052) Past Vice Supreme Master
5. Due to illness Robert Ferguson resigned as Treasurer recently; standing in are Mike Callais (9000) VP and Past President David Landry (7275)
6. New FS or Comptrollers –
 - a. Rory Cadres (1905)
 - b. Mike Gauthier (3465)
7. Election Results for Supreme Convention Delegate
 - a. Robert Ricca (1819) elected by LSFSA but not by State
 - b. Tommy Rodrigue (8952) nominated and elected at State
8. Opening Remarks George Martin State Deputy
 - a. State Convention had some small issues with voting log-in process
 - b. Thank to FS for their hard work. Please consider dues forgiveness if appropriate.
 - c. Prospects - Check KOFC.ORG for possible candidates. Supreme has had some issues but there is a council that has 12 prospects and has not met quota of 3. Seems like an easy way for that council to make Star. Offer help to new FS.
 - d. Promote events in the state across the state
9. Remarks by Past State Deputy Vernon Ducote
 - a. Thank LSFSA members and officers and a look forward to improving circumstances
10. New State Secretary Bobby Charpentier - thanks for invitation to attend and for all FS' hard work.
11. Chris Dufrene remarks- Thanks to all officers and trainers

12. Motion to dispense with reading of Minutes by David Landry (7275), 2nd by Keith Gautreau (8147). Motion carried.
13. Confirmation of Committees
 - a. Audit Committee – David Landry (7275)
 - b. Election Committee – Chris Dufrene (7350)
 - c. Memorial Committee – Paul Gisclair (7557)
 - d. Call for additional names of deceased FS and Comptrollers
14. Treasurer's report by David Landry (7275)
 - a. Check book was in shambles, with help of others we need to know revenues (9 Deposits) source. Expenses are recorded as 11 checks.
 - b. Beginning Balance \$21,041.77 Ending Balance \$23,283.29.
 - c. Motion to approve report by Pete Peragine (5530), 2nd By Maurice Evans (7355), Motion passed.
15. Budget Report by David Landry (7275)
 - a. No Budget last year.
 - b. Based on previous years, Expenses – \$9150, Income \$3575, for 2021 Budget sent by e-mail
 - c. Russell Ruh (a 2052) – Why doesn't this budget balance as it should?
 - i. Chris Dufrene (7350) - Fund Raiser (gun raffle) is possible to bring budget closer. Biggest expense is luncheon in past years.
 - ii. David (2807) - Convention lunch or breakfast should make money or break even.
 - d. Keith Gautreau (8147) – Budget is just a guideline and we had over \$30,000 in checking account a few years ago so that is why the luncheon and breakfast were started to reduce the large amount in the Account and thank members for participation.
 - e. Mike Calais (9000) - Hotels do not allow outside food and are very expensive, which is why we don't get the meals from other sources.
 - f. Pete Peragine (5530) – Please send budgets to all from last 2 years.
16. Nominations – Emailed nominations of officers - Re-open nominations - Chris Dufrene (7550)
 - a. President – Tommy Rodrigue (8932) - no other nominations
 - b. Vice President – Mike Callais (9000) – no other nominations
 - c. Secretary – Robert F Ricca (1819) – no other nominations
 - d. Treasurer – Maurice Evans (7355) – no other nominations

- e. Warden – No e-mail nominations, Keith Gautreau (8147) nominates Russell Ruh (A 2052) - no other nominations
- f. 3-year trustee – No e-mail nominations, Keith Gautreau (8147) nominates David Landry (7275) who accepts nomination - no other nominations.
- g. Chris Dufrene (7550) moves to 2-Year Trustee and Paul Gisclair (7557) moves to 1-Year Trustee.
- h. Nominations closed and final list read
- i. Pete Peragine (5530) motions to elect nominated officers by acclamation, 2nd by Paul Gisclair (7557), motion passed

17. Old Business

- a. Gun Raffle to be chaired by Chris Dufrene
- b. Training sessions
 - i. Marrero - 26 attendees Chris Dufrene hosted
 - ii. Lafayette – 20 attendees David Landry hosted
 - iii. David willing to go to other locations and suggested to teach attendees how to go to state website
- c. 990 forms due in 1 week. Bob Ricca (1819) said the due date depends on your fiscal year end (December or June) and because of gaming his council has to file a 990N long form. State Deputy George Martin indicated that filing yearly is important so a council does not lose their exempt status.

18. New Business

- a. Suspension Process
 - i. Jerome Benoit (8906) - Suspension process requires form 1845 (Intent to Retain) but the form is not easy to find online. David Landry (7275) said the form is the Conservation form and that you can go to member billing and print center.
 - ii. Pete Peragine (5530) - Follow all protocol, discuss with member if he insists on exiting Knights have him send a letter or signed note indicating his desires. Supreme accepts that and form 100.
 - iii. Bob Ricca (1819) - Getting hold of people is really difficult and there is often no follow up from delinquent member.

- iv. Keith Gautreau (8147) - Remember to send the Retention Committee report with notes of contacts or attempts, and do this within the time line outlined by Supreme.

19. General Agent – Dan Cabirac

- a. Thanks to FS's for their hard work
- b. He can help with suspension process - Use text messages send to Supreme
- c. Field agent can help finding members
- d. He gave everyone thank you insulated mugs by his Agency
- e. Extreme death claims from COVID
- f. New plans (burial plan, Mutual funds)
- g. Many Technology Advancements – Fraternal Benefits nights makes councils open to Founder's award or Star Council

20. Audit Report given by David Landry (In minutes) – Motion to accept Chris Dufrene (7550), 2nd by Mike Calais (9000), motion approved.

21. Election report given by Chris Dufrene (7550) in minutes. Motion to accept by David Landry (7275), 2nd by Anthony Vavasseur (2606), motion passed.

22. Memorial committee report in minutes given by Paul Gisclair (7557). Motion to accept by Robert Ricca (1819), 2nd by Leonce Waguespack (13349), motion passed.

23. Comments from New Officers

- a. Tommy – thank you, any suggestions regarding training, meeting agendas are appreciated
- b. Mike - Consider forgiveness of unpaid dues is an option
- c. Bob - Dues is a person-by-person decision and the delinquent Knight needs to take some ownership
- d. Maurice – Will do my best and would appreciate support from past treasurers
- e. Russell – plans to stir up things in a positive way, willing to work with others, dues forgiveness for any dues in arrears for 2 or more years
- f. Tommy for getting us back to a live meeting, asked about KCLS. State Deputy George Martin indicated KCLS will be on July 17 in Dutchtown and on July 24 in Alexandria.
- g. Paul Gisclair – good to see everyone. Luncheon is part of reward for being a member of Association. What is our mission and what does it

do for us? Need more communication to members of the Association
re: billing, training, etc.

- h. David Landry – Open some meetings up to members who have not paid or joined to get information and he is ready to help new FS to get productive. Person elected by LSFSA to go to Supreme Convention should be more possibly elected by state convention.
- 24. Keith Gautreau (8147) - Offered kudos to Mark Carver on the great job he did communicating information to all LA Knights.
- 25. Awards - Leonce Waguespack presented awards to Tommy Rodrigue (8952) 30 years, Keith Gautreau (8147) 30 years. Phil Jones not present to receive 25-year plaque.
- 26. Tommy Rodrigue gave menu for Luncheon and Luncheon is dedicated to memory of 3 Past State Deputies who recently died - Easton Pitre, Ben Davidson and Jack O'Reilly.
- 27. Mike Callais (9000) offered Prayers to close meeting and then Blessing before the meal.
- 28. Chris – Gun raffle cost \$625 and deposits of \$4700 and \$750 were made.
- 29. Meeting adjourned